

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS ADANA 000102

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PINS](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [IZ](#) [TU](#) [ADANA](#)

SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY AUGUST 16, 2004

This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for August 16, 2004. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

CUMHURİYET, ZAMAN, EVRENSEL, TURKIYE, BOLGE: A report by the Anti-Smuggling and Organized Crimes Department of National Police General Directorate revealed that arms smuggling, which had declined after 2000, has increased anew due to Coalition Forces' invasion of Iraq in 2003 and the vacuum of authority in Northern Iraq. According to the report, 2,993 persons involved in arms smuggling were arrested, and 2,795 pistols and 319 long-barreled weapons were seized in the past five years.

CUMHURİYET, YENİ SAFAK, MILLİ GAZETE: Labor Party Chairman Dogu Perincek claimed that the "Religions and Cultures Park Project" to be implemented in Sanliurfa aimed at the "Judaization" of the region. Perincek said Israel has agreed to pay \$20 million to the project provided a synagogue was included in it. The Current Justice and Development Party Mayor of Sanliurfa is also supporting the project. Perincek added that the project would become the site of Jewish and Christian missionaries' activities. Perincek said "This project forms the cultural leg of the United States' Broader Middle East Initiative. The US wants to make the Kurdish populated-Urfa and Kurds its collaborators."

ULKEDE OZGUR GUNDEM: 101 students, 62 male and 39 female, enrolled at the Diyarbakir Private Kurdish Language School in one day prior to its official opening on August 22. The courses will start on September 1, World Peace Day.

ULKEDE OZGUR GUNDEM, EVRENSEL: In Cizre, Sirnak province, Ferhat Erincik (10), and Magdur Erincik (9) were killed when they played with what was allegedly a military rocket shell they found in the Konak Quarter of the town yesterday.

ULKEDE OZGUR GUNDEM, EVRENSEL: PKK guerillas attacked the Basakci Jandarma Station in Tunceli on August 15, wounding one soldier. A sound bomb placed in the Business Center owned by the Tunceli Municipality caused material damages. No casualties have been reported. Police detonated a suspicious parcel placed at Mameki Bridge, right at the entrance of Tunceli.

ULKEDE OZGUR GUNDEM: The Van Migrant Association, VMA, formed a "Legal Commission" to assist individuals who would apply for benefits from the recently passed "Compensation of Losses Stemming from Anti-terror Struggle" law. VMA demanded that the maximum amount of indemnity determined by law be raised from 12 billion Turkish Liras (approximately \$8,300) to 50 billion Turkish Liras (approximately \$33,500) per case. 384 persons have applied to VMA's Legal Commission, and VMA officials attributed the high number of applicants to the fact that some lawyers were demanding up to 25 % of the indemnities for legal services they would provide. A similar commission has been set up at Mardin's Human Rights Association, as well.

EVRENSEL: The Diyarbakir Human Rights Association's President, Attorney Selahattin Demirtas, announced that 30-40 houses in Germav village of Beytussebab, Sirnak province, were evacuated for security reasons on orders from the Regiment Commander. The Beytussebab Mayor Faik Dursun confirmed the eviction and added that the evacuees were living in tents and plastic shelters under very tough conditions.

REID